Behavior Consulting

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Annotated Bibliography/Summary

Behavior consulting is a form of consulting that focuses on a child who is displaying bad behavior. Because it is assumed that behavior is a learned response, then the issues that occur when they interact with teachers, parents, peers and others will decide their behavior and personality.

Therefore consequence s must occur for bad behavior. Dickinson and Bradshaw (1992) stated that consequence is the most necessary aspect of human learning. If a child works very hard on a project and gets made fun of or is shot don, then the child’s behavior can be quickly altered. Positive consequences can also affect a child’s behavior. The environment context can also affect a child’s behavior. In order to change a child’s bad behavior, the environmental stimuli in which caused that problem or cue must be altered. Another suggestion made by Dickinson and Bradshaw (1992) was adaptive behaviors. Children with disruptive behaviors need to observe kids with good behaviors. They do not need to be paired up with a child that also displays a negative behavior.

Dickinson and Bradshaw (1992) also discussed the benefits of personal counseling. The personal counseling that was discussed here was a child having test anxiety and how a counselor could help that child. Another counseling technique that was mentioned was that counselors work with the children who have a fear of speaking up in class and telling the teacher when they do not understand. Role playing was one method that could be used in this instance.

Dickinson and Bradshaw (1992) also compared consulting and counseling and when one was needed versus the other. Counseling is a good idea for teaching social skills as a preventative measure but for the child who displays bad behavior, there needs to be a consulting session with the teacher and parents. Most of the time it was found that if the parents are consulted then the behavior changes.

Critique

Dickinson and Bradshaw (1992) had some very good basic ideas. The one idea that this author agrees on but is two sided is when bad behavior is occurring within a child, the parents need to be consulted. Parents can be very influential on a child’s behavior. On the other hand, now days there are parents who do not care about the actions of their child-after all this action was learned somewhere. The parents want to leave it up to the school for their child’s behavior to be fixed. The parents are either too busy working or they are too involved in themselves to care about their child. Nevertheless, when a consulting session occurs with the parents, it is usually evident if the parent is a strong influence in their child’s life or if they are not. Once the consultation takes place and a counselor and teacher view that there is no discipline at home then there can be a plan of action of how to best help this child.

Dickinson and Bradshaw (1992) also spoke of consequence and the importance of this term. Not only did they refer to consequence as an action to modify a behavior but they also discussed it in the realm of if the child and the environment. Sometimes a child needs to hear positive reinforcement versus negative response and this may aid in the child responding more appropriately.

There are different times of when to use consulting and counseling. Sometimes thought the consulting and counseling may go hand in hand. The teacher, counselor, and parent may need to consult to come to a decision that a counseling session is needed.

References

Dickinson, D., & Bradshaw, S. (1992). Multiplying Effectiveness: Combining

Consultation with Counseling. *School Counselor*, *40*(2), 118-24. Retrieved from ERIC database.